



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

25X1A

November 20, 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McCONE

SUBJECT: CIA U-2 Aircraft

Reference is made to your memorandum
dated November 18, 1963.

I have requested the Chairman, Joint
Chiefs of Staff, to arrange for the return to CIA
of the J-75 equipped U-2 aircraft that has been on
loan to SAC. As you know, the other J-75 equipped
U-2 on loan to SAC crashed this date.

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CONTROL SYSTEM



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

18 NOV 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Roswell L. Gilpatric
The Deputy Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: Recall of CIA U-2 Aircraft

1. As you will recall, on 23 June 1963, I directed that two Agency U-2 aircraft be loaned to SAC so as to support the regular reconnaissance effort with the most modern U-2 capability, in the face of possible MIG-21 or SA-2 counteraction.

2. These aircraft have been regularly flown by SAC since that time, and the MIG-21 threat has not materialized, nor do we feel today that it can be effectively employed above 66,000 feet, below the operating altitude of either SAC's U-2's or our own. The SA-2 must be considered a threat to other type of aircraft unless it is armed with jammers. It is my understanding in this context that SAC has now configured several of its U-2's to carry jammers also, so there is no basic difference in aircraft vulnerability to the SA-2:

3. On 14 November 1963 the Special Group addressed itself to the resumption of TACKLE flights over China following the loss of a U-2 there on November first.

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when matched against the requirements imposed on the limited number of available U-2's in the CIA inventory, necessitates the withdrawal of the two CIA planes now assigned to SAC for the Cuban mission. If a new threat materializes to the SAC program there, we will want to examine the situation anew to see if a second CIA transfusion would give us added assurance. Accordingly, I would appreciate it if you would make the necessary arrangements to ensure return of the two CIA aircraft to Edwards Air Force Base as soon as possible.

John A. McCone
Director

cc: D/NRO

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CONCUR:

15 NOV 1963

(Signed) Jack C. Ledford

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DD/S&T

DAD/OSA/JACunningham, Jr:ph (15 Nov 63)

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